

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 180915Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7031
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

UNCLAS VALLETTA 1198

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJ: MALTA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
JOINT ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

ON OCTOBER 23, 1976, THERE WILL BEGIN IN MALTA A
THREE DAY CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE MALTESE ARAB
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO DISCUSS TRADE AND INVESTMENT
DIFFICULTIES WITH ARAB COUNTRIES.

INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN 19 ARAB COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS
REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOME 15 JOINT ARAB CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE IN VARIOUS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. MOST OF THE
ARAB COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES,
WHILE POSITIVE ACCEPTANCES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM
JOINT ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN WEST GERMANY, HUNGARY,
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ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA, THE U.K. AND THE U.S. (FOUR SUCH

CHAMBERS IN THE U.S. - FROM HOUSTON, NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND
SAN FRANCISCO - HAVE REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED INVITATIONS.)
ALSO SENDING REPRESENTATIVES IN OBSERVER STATUS ARE THE
SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND BULGARIA.

THE PROPOSAL FOR THIS CONFERENCE WAS FIRST PRESENTED BY
MALTA AT A MEETING OF ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN ALEXANDRIA,
EGYPT, EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE IDEA WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ESPOUSED
BY THE FRENCH ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN MARSEILLES,
WHICH MADE A STRONG BID TO HOST THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER,
THE MALTESE ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE SMALLEST (WITH
FORTY MEMBERS) OF ALL JOINT ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, WAS
ABLE TO PREVAIL, DUE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO BOTH MORAL
AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM MALTA'S NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTH,
LIBYA. (IN PIQUE, THE MARSEILLE CHAMBER WILL NOT ATTEND
THE CONFERENCE IN MALTA.)

COMMENT: A LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE IS THE CREATION
OF AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JOINT ARAB CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE. SMITH

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